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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,952	01/26/2006	Satoshi Ohuchi	043890-0771	8455

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PANASONIC PATENT CENTER
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

KWOK, HELEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2856

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/565,952	OHUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Helen C. Kwok	2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/26/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. Figures 8-10 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,880,399 (Okoshi et al.) in view of WO 03/052350 (Ouchi et al.).

Okoshi et al. discloses an angular velocity sensor comprising, as illustrated in Figures 1-5, a vibrator 21; a drive electrode unit 25,26; a monitor electrode unit 28; a sensing electrode unit 27 wherein the drive electrode unit, the monitor electrode unit and the sensing electrode unit are each made up of a bottom electrode 23 formed on a substrate, a piezoelectric film 24 made of piezoelectric material formed on the bottom electrode and a top electrode formed on the piezoelectric film. (See, column 3, line 18 to column 4, line 6). The only difference between prior art and the claimed invention is an end of the top electrodes is located inside an end of the piezoelectric film so as to expose the end of the piezoelectric film beyond the end of the top electrode. Ouchi et al. discloses resonator gyroscope comprising, as illustrated in Figures 1-13, a vibrator 1; a drive electrode unit; a sensing electrode unit wherein the drive electrode unit and the sensing electrode unit are each made up of a bottom electrode 10,11,12,13,41,42 formed on a substrate, a piezoelectric film 14,15,16,17,43,44 made of piezoelectric material formed on the bottom electrode and a top electrode 18,19,20,21,45,46 formed on the piezoelectric film such that an end of the top electrodes is located inside an end of the piezoelectric film so as to expose the end of the piezoelectric film beyond the end of the top electrode. (See, Abstract and as observed in the figures). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to have readily recognize the advantages and desirability of employing the arrangement of the drive electrode unit, the monitor electrode unit and the sensing electrode unit such that an

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end of the top electrodes is located inside an end of the piezoelectric film so as to expose the end of the piezoelectric film beyond the end of the top electrode as suggested by Ouchi et al. to the apparatus of Okoshi et al. so that even if there is a dislocation in the patterning of the electrodes or the piezoelectric films, a possible short-circuit trouble can be avoided.

With regards to claims 2-5, the references further disclose the thickness and exposed width; a pair of arms for the vibrator to form a tuning fork; the substrate is silicon and the piezoelectric film is PZT. (As observed in the figures and discloses in the specification of these references).

With regards to claim 6, the claim is directed to a method claim and is commensurate in scope with claims 1-5 of above and is rejected for the same reasons as set forth above.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

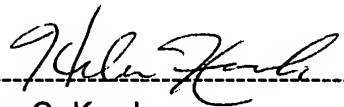
The references cited are related to angular velocity sensor having a drive unit and a sense unit having the configuration of a piezoelectric film sandwiched between two electrodes.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen C. Kwok whose telephone number is (571) 272-2197. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Helen C. Kwok
Art Unit 2856

hck
October 26, 2006